441

F753000-1139

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

33
Action

Control: 29737
Rec'd: October 26, 1957
2:20 p.m.

ARA
INR
ARA

FROM: Guatemala City

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 163, October 26, 2 a.m.

DMR

DECLASSIFICATION DATE 10/14/75
PER Fanning OFFICE ARA
FADRC FOI CASE NO. 83-201

SS
C
SP
C
L
USP
SCA
A
OSR
IRC
CIA
OSD
ARMY
NAVY
AIR

NIACT

I met privately tonight with Junta and its Secretary General. All appeared willing reluctantly accept likelihood Ydigoras would become next President no matter what solution they decided upon. They were however not (repeat not) prepared give Ydigoras Presidency on silver platter by acceding his demands that he be made President without new elections. They felt this would be unconstitutional and unacceptable to many groups. They definitely thought new elections should be held after Congress installed second designate Flores Avendano.

Mendoza thought elections might be held in month in order that PR would not (repeat not) have time organize sufficiently pose serious threat and in order Ydigorista movement would not be deflated. Secretary General appeared feel longer period should be provided in which prepare for elections. All were insistent on finding constitutional solution to problem.

Junta believes that all non-Communist political parties including PR should be allowed participate in elections and no (repeat no) party should receive any favoritism from government.

I emphasized to Junta paramount importance we attach to preserving any government in Guatemala free from Communist taint. I also pointed out we were not (repeat not) taking sides in favor of any particular candidate or arrangement and it was up to Guatemala to find solution which would maximize likelihood obtaining broadest possible acceptability and avoiding serious bloodshed.

Unless

714.00/10-2657

HBS

PERMANENT RECORD COPY - This copy must be retained in Central files with notations

UNLESS CLASSIFIED

F7B9209-1131

-2- 163, October 26, 2 a.m. from Guatemala City

Unless Ydigoras retreats to his earlier position as reported to us by Silva Pena of willingness accept new elections it appears likely clash will occur tomorrow afternoon between his followers and military and police authorities and bloodshed will inevitably result. Possible prospect of partisans in new elections might cause PR desist. Probably Communists will continue carry on their militant agitation. Also MLN which is reported by CAS to have distributed some arms might join in.

I am concerned at prospect possible PR participation in next elections if as seems likely it is decided hold new ones. Although some PR leaders are trying hard purge Communists from party's ranks I am dubious of their ability to police their organization which we know to be infiltrated with and major target of Communists.

Leftists can count on considerable support among people and could pose threat at this time when Ydigorista Party coffers have been emptied by last campaign while theirs are untouched. Moreover if anything happened to Ydigoras PR would practically have whole field to itself. I expressed my misgivings to Junta tonight re Guatemalan ability handle party like PR only three years after recovery from communism. Junta members all felt PR could not (repeat not) win elections and hence posed no (repeat no) serious threat.

I am also concerned at more immediate danger serious disturbances may occur tomorrow if impasse between Ydigoras and Junta continues. I have impression Army is fast losing its patience with Ydigoras.

SPARKS

TT/5

NOTE: Advance copy to Mr. Wollam (ARA) 10/26/1:05 p.m., LMH